United Nations A/54/762

General Assembly

Distr.: General
22 February 2000
English
Original: Russian

Fifty-fourth session
Agenda items 116 (a) and 160
Human rights questions: implementation of human rights instruments

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Letter dated 21 February 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to bring to your attention a note verbale issued on 21 February 2000 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan concerning the statement by the Presidency of the European Union, issued on 4 February 2000 as a document of the General Assembly (A/54/737, annex), on the execution of six citizens of Uzbekistan who took part in the organization and perpetration of terrorist bomb attacks on 16 February 1999, which were aimed at overthrowing the constitutional system and which claimed a number of human lives (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 116 (a) and 160.

(*Signed*) Alisher **Vohidov**
Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the United Nations

00-31111 (E) 010300 010300

Annex

Note verbale issued on 21 February 2000 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan addressed to the Secretariat of the United Nations

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the United Nations and, in response to the statement by the Presidency of the European Union, issued on 4 February 2000 as a document of the General Assembly (A/54/737, annex), concerning the execution of six citizens of Uzbekistan in connection with terrorist acts carried out in Tashkent on 16 February 1999, which claimed human lives, has the honour to state the following.

On 28 June 1999, the citizens of Uzbekistan B. Abdullaev, K. Zakirov, M. Abdurakhmanov, Z. Dekhkanov, Z. Hasanov and T. Nuraliev were found guilty and sentenced to death by the Supreme Court of Uzbekistan on the basis of the offences specified in the relevant articles of the Criminal Code of Uzbekistan currently in force.

The Judicial Board for Criminal Cases of the Supreme Court of Uzbekistan found that the above-mentioned persons had for their own selfish purposes begun to spread, under the guise of Islam, ethnic and religious discord among the population of Uzbekistan, conspired to seize power and overthrow Uzbekistan's constitutional system by means of a jihad and attempted to assassinate the President of Uzbekistan.

It is well known that today in the international arena, in addition to other risks and challenges, religious extremism and international terrorism, joining forces, pose an increasing threat to international security and stability.

Given the need to strengthen State sovereignty and ensure security and stability within State borders, these new threats are also a source of serious concern for Uzbekistan.

Uzbekistan, which has declared its commitment to basic democratic values and the creation of a genuine civil society, is taking appropriate progressive measures to establish in its State the universally recognized democratic standards that it accepted as part of its international obligations.

In Uzbekistan, there are specific guidelines for State activity in the fields of safeguarding national security and public order, observing and protecting human rights and continuing democratic and market reforms.

Although Uzbekistan applies the death penalty for persons who have committed particularly serious crimes, there has been a steady trend towards reducing the number of articles that provide for capital punishment.

The Criminal Code of the Uzbek Soviet Socialist Republic, which was used even after Uzbekistan became independent and until it adopted a new Criminal Code, contained 35 articles providing for the death penalty as a form of punishment.

In 1994, Uzbekistan adopted a new Criminal Code, which contained 13 articles under which the death penalty could be carried out.

By an act adopted on 29 August 1998, the Oliy Majlis (Parliament) of Uzbekistan at its twelfth session reduced the number of such articles to eight.

Moreover, according to the Criminal Code of Uzbekistan, the death penalty cannot be carried out on citizens of Uzbekistan who committed offences under the above-mentioned eight articles if such persons are women or minors (up to 18 years of age).

Persons who have committed offences for which the Criminal Code of Uzbekistan provides for capital punishment may, as the result of a pardon, have the death penalty commuted to a prison sentence of 25 years.

The Government of Uzbekistan draws the attention of the Presidency of the European Union to the fact that the death penalty is used as a form of punishment in many States Members of the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan requests that the Secretariat of the United Nations issue this statement as a document of the General Assembly.